

the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Marine Corps.

In 1986, the Goldwater-Nichols Act stated that each service's commanding officer serves equally as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. That is, the Marine Corps and the Navy are coequal partners. The Marines do not serve beneath the Navy; they are an equal team.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have again introduced legislation, H.R. 346, to recognize their coequal status by changing the name of the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Not only has this change received the full House Armed Services Committee support, but also from former Navy secretaries and Marine Corps commandants.

In a statement of support for this legislation, the Honorable Wade Sanders, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs, 1993-1998, stated, and I quote, "As a combat veteran and former Naval officer, I understand the importance of the team dynamic, and the importance of recognizing the contribution of team components. The Navy and Marine Corps team is just that: a dynamic partnership, and is important to symbolically recognize the balance of that partnership."

In addition, General Charles Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps stated, and I quote, "This bill is a perfectly logical evolution in a series of legislative initiatives designed, in part, to clarify and codify the role of the United States Marine Corps. . . I enthusiastically support both the spirit and intent."

General Carl Mundy, the 30th commandant of the Marine Corps stated, and I quote, "I believe the changes you propose will do much to clarify the relationship, responsibilities and functions of the appointed civilian authority over the United States Naval services. . . I believe that any Secretary—present, past or future—will be very proud to bear the title 'Marine,' as well as 'Navy.'"

The Honorable John Dalton, the 70th Secretary of the Navy stated, and I quote "One of the things for which I am most proud that I accomplished during my tenure was moving the headquarters of the Marine Corps into the Pentagon. It was a controversial decision, but I am convinced it was the right thing to do. . . Your legislation would be another vital step to give that distinguished service the recognition it so greatly deserves."

Before I close, I want to point out to the House that I have beside me the Order of the Silver Star for Marines killed in Iraq. Marine Michael Bitz' family received a Silver Star in his memory. Yet when you look at this poster you will see an exact copy of the article for the Secretary of the Navy, Washington D.C., and the Navy flag.

All this legislation will do, all this legislation will do, is to make the Navy

and the Marine Corps an equal partner. You can see if these orders were issued and this bill had become law, it would say the Secretary of the Navy and the Marine Corps with the Navy flag and the Marine flag for this brave marine who gave his life for this country.

I hope this year that the House under the leadership of IKE SKELTON will demand that the Senate agree to the House position and change the name to be the Department of Navy and Marine Corps.

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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the millions of Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage. I would like to thank my good friend, Congressman MIKE HONDA, for leading the special orders tonight on Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and providing us with this opportunity to speak to you tonight.

I represent a heavily, heavily populated Asia Pacific community in southern California, I think the second most populated in the country. The first group that makes up a large proportion is Taiwanese and Chinese. The second group is Filipino. I am very proud to have represented them for so many years.

But I am here tonight to pay tribute to the many of them who provide us with public service in government, science, law and business, athletics and in the arts. These communities that I represent are the cities of Monterey Park, Rosemead, West Covina and the San Gabriel Valley. Well over 120,000 individuals represent that district.

They are Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean and of Cambodian decent. As you know, they work hard, like many immigrants that come to this country. Nearly 30 percent of the minority-owned businesses are owned by Asian Pacific Islanders and African-American women. In recent years, a number of Asian and Pacific Islander women-owned businesses has increased by 69 percent in the district.

According to the Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Americans own at least two-thirds of Monterey Park's more than 5,000 businesses. I have long been a supporter of a program called PACE, Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment, which was founded back in 1976 to address the employment and job training needs of Asian Pacific Islanders. Believe it or not, there are many Asian Pacific Islanders who really do need the support of the Federal Government and our various forms of government to help them succeed in our country.

Today it provides workforce development, housing services, business assist-

ance and early childhood education in Los Angeles county. I would especially like to recognize a good friend of mine, Kerry Doi, with whom I have worked for a number of years, whom I am extremely proud of. Earlier this year, his program, known as PACE, and the Association for Enterprise Opportunity Women and Company, chose 10 prominent small business owners to give \$1,000 checks to.

You may think that's not a lot of money, but for first-time business owners of Asian Pacific descent, it meant a lot. I am proud of the work they are doing to help all small business owners, including those of API heritage, to succeed.

I have also worked closely with the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center and the Monterey Park Langley Senior Center, predominantly of Asian descent. I am proud to have these organizations in my district because they are wonderful places where individuals from this community can gather and have social time, artistic time, recreational time and share their culture with each other.

At the senior center, I meet often with them. They take language courses, computer classes and different exercise courses that help them to keep busy in our community. Many of the seniors and their families and others have been touched by the immigration process recently.

In fact, I would say that the second largest case load in my district happened to be individuals of API descent. They, just as much as anyone else, want to become naturalized citizens, and they are stepping up to the plate. I was happy to host a citizenship forum that we held in the City of Irwindale recently, and I would say about 200 or more families of API descent came forward to become naturalized citizens. I am proud that is happening in our community and across the country.

I am here to support, again, the efforts of the API caucus, which MIKE HONDA leads, and to work with my colleagues there on the tri-caucus to help put forward disparities and treatment in health care issues regarding API, the Hispanic community and the African-American community. We are working together to bridge our gaps so that we can provide better services to all Americans in all residents of our country. I am happy and pleased to be able to put this forward tonight in support of the API caucus.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE ASIAN PACIFIC COMMUNITY AND THE IRAQ WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me take this opportunity, before I address the question our soldiers in Iraq, to thank Mr. HONDA for convening this special order on the Asian Pacific community of this Nation and to thank him for his leadership of the Asian Pacific Caucus, of which I am a member and to acknowledge the Asian Pacific community in Houston, Texas, a thriving community so diverse and so respected.

I am reminded of the unity that was exhibited as Katrina survivors who were Asian Pacific Islanders came into Houston. Both Mr. HONDA and myself worked on the issue of language and representation and resources, and the Asian Pacific community in Houston was so united and so supportive so that these new visitors, these strangers in a different land, would feel welcome.

Let me also acknowledge that I have the privilege of representing not only a very strong Vietnamese business community, but also the original Chinatown in Houston. So my hat goes off and salutes the outstanding leaders in that community, scientists, educators, businesspersons, public servants, and, as well, I thank them for the wonderful service that they give and the opportunity to work together with them. This is an outstanding tribute to be able to honor the Asian Pacific Islander community in the month of May.

Let me also acknowledge that the Vietnamese community will have its first cultural event gala where it honors heroes and public servants from around the Nation.

I would hope that as we look to the greatness of America, we will find it in our hearts to be able to address the question of the tragedy in Iraq. It is a tragedy that continues to grow. Every time you turn the corner, turn the news on or read a newspaper article, it is disintegrating and deteriorating.

Today in the newspaper it says an Army general predicts a rise in casualties. So at the back of the surge the President says will have solved the conflict in Iraq, we will see, tragically in the words of Major General Rick Lynch, who is working with the 3rd Infantry Division, "Casualties will climb as American troops dig into enemy territory as part of the stepped-up military operation ordered by President Bush in January."

His sentence does not say how we will resolve the conflict. It doesn't say that it results in any positive end. It doesn't say that we will be victorious

in that effort, it says that the lives of Americans will be lost. We, as Americans, believe that when we go to war, the Nation goes to war. Therefore, it is important to have a mission to have a conclusion to that mission.

Compounded to that issue, we show that attacks killed eight U.S. troops. They kill them because they are being killed by IEDs. They kill them because there is no mission, there is no policy, there is no political policy. There is no end, there is no beginning.

So I ask the President to sit down with this Congress and be able to resolve this by, one, leaving in the language that says, we will redeploy the troops by July, 2007, or, at the latest, October, 2007, have a rational policy for exiting from the conflict that is causing the mounting lives that are lost.

In addition, lives are being lost in Afghanistan of a civilian population, lives of the civilian Iraqis are being lost, and there is no response from this administration.

While there they are wining and dining, I would simply ask in addition to that responsibility, let us find a conclusion to the war in Iraq by reconciliation and compromise between the executive and, of course, the Congress. We cannot tolerate any more headlines like this, mothers and fathers, husbands and wives are asking why, when there is no end. The soldiers are our heroes. They have done their job. We have said this over and over.

I commend to this body H.R. 930, my legislation, Military Success in Iraq and Diplomatic Surge for National and Political Reconciliation in Iraq Act of 2007. Declare a military victory, our soldiers have been victorious. Let them come home to yellow ribbons and celebrations and their families, have them prepared, stronger, increased, a stronger military, with the right kind of equipment.

Let the generals logistically plan how they will redeploy, possibly to the Kuwait borders and to the other borders, but let them come home. We are not trying to dictate to the generals how to redeploy, what the logistics would be, but we are only saying that the policy is a failed policy, and our soldiers must come home. No more headlines, Army general predicts rise in U.S. casualties, no more headlines eight troops dead and continuing to die with no solution and no end.

I ask my colleagues to review H.R. 930 and ask the President and this Congress to find a way that we can work together.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this month is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This is a national celebration

which continues to highlight and bring awareness to the many contributions of the Asian Pacific Americans who have made this country their home.

I want to thank Mr. HONDA, who will be leading a special order in just a few minutes, with respect to all the accomplishments of the Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

I am fortunate to represent one of the largest Asian Pacific populations in Orange County, California. It's full of Japanese, Korean, Hmong, Cambodians, Laotians, Chinese, Hawaiian Pacific Islanders and, of course, the largest Vietnamese population outside the world resides in Orange County, California. Representing that community I see firsthand the rich culture and the contributions and all of these communities bring to my hometown of Anaheim and Orange County.

More than 30 years ago, with when the Vietnamese arrived, my district was full of orange groves. They took these orange groves, some of the dilapidated commercial centers, and they made these block-long business districts that generate today, multibillion dollars for our local economy.

While being an integrated part of the American social fabric is important, these communities also bring with them a rich awareness of what is going on around the world, in particular, what happens in their homeland.

I enjoy an open dialogue, for example, with the Vietnamese American community, especially about the continuing situation in Vietnam, where human rights and religious freedoms, remain a distant dream for the peoples of that country.

Now is the time to remember and to celebrate the successes and the contributions that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders bring to the diversity of America.

Although it is important to recognize the achievements made by this community, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month must also provide a forum to focus on the problems that face these communities, such as affordable housing, racial profiling, and language barriers.

In particular, the health care issues that are so important, so many health care issues that happened in this particular community like hepatitis C, diabetes, and some of the other larger issues which affect us all.

One of the problems facing the APAC community is the perception that all the members of their communities are thriving. If you are Asian or Pacific Islander, you must be going to the Berkeleys of the world, you must be doctors, you must be thriving, you must be engineers, you must be great business people. But the reality is that there are large populations, API populations who still have low access to real quality education and they face tremendous language barriers. The API community has come a long way, sacrificing for our country and contributing to our growth and prosperity, and I